the screening of the film. The revisionary powers of the Central Government under Section 6 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 were struck down by the Supreme Court in their judgement in the Shankarappa Vs. Union of India case in 2000. Therefore, the Central Government does not have any power to intervene or review the decision of the CBFC.

Preservation of art objects

1. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has in his Audit Report ending the 31st March, 2004 (no. 4 of 2005) has adversely commented on the lack of any proper standard or norms for acquiring, collecting and preserving art objects in the Indian Museum, Victoria Memorial and Asiatic Society in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that security system in these institutions is inadequate and leaves much to be desired; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to address these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Chapter III of C&AG Report No. 4 of 2005 (Civil) for Indian Museum, Asiatic Society and Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata the Audit commented on the absence of standards or norms in the four functional areas of acquisition, documentation, preservation/conservation and safe custody of artifacts.

The Indian Museum, Asiatic Society and Victoria Memorial Hall do follow standards norms for acquisition, documentation and conservation/ preservation and safe custody of artifacts. These institutions maintain methodical and scientific standards which are based on the specific needs of the institutions. However, observations made in the Audit Report have been noted for further improvement.

(c) The Audit Report also commented on inadequacy of security systems in these institutions.

(d) According to the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of

Museums and the Ministry of Culture, a three-tier security system has been introduced in the Indian Museum. The Ministry of Culture has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General, National Museum for assessment of security requirement of its museums. The Committee has also assessed the security requirement of Indian Museum, Kolkata, and has made certain recommendations. Ministry of Culture has issued directions to Indian Museum to implement the recommendation of the Committee. The master plan of the Victoria Memorial Hall galleries and stores has included the crucial aspects of security and surveillance and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) authorities, engaged to study an effective security system. In Asiatic Society, the recommendations relating to increase in the number of cameras for close-circuit TV and modifications/renovation work of the main gate were accepted.

Buddhist stupas in Orissa

2. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent excavations in Orissa, ASI has discovered Buddhist stupas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-period to which these stupas belong to and whether such structural plans are similar to ones seen at Sarnath, Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has discovered a large number of Buddhist votive stupas from excavations at Udaygiri, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa, during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. There are three major groups of votive stupas of varying dimensions, made of bricks and stones. These stupas were constructed on squarish, rectangular or circular platforms. The bases of some stupas have circular depressions for keeping terracotta sealings bearing Buddhist incantations. Based on archaeological evidences, these stupas are datable variously to *circa* 1st—12th century AD. Besides, a votive stupa has been discovered at Ratnagiri, District Jajpur, Orissa, during the year 2003-04, datable to *circa* 9th-10th century AD.